IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 5-12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

There have been used wavelength plates prepared by bonding a film obtained by stretching and orienting a transparent resin film such as polycarbonate (PC), triacetyl ~~acetate~~ cellulose (TAC), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polyvinyl butyral (PVB), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP), polyallylates, polysulfones, polyethersulfones, and acrylic resins, thereby providing a function to impart a retardation to transmitted light (this film will be referred to as "retardation film") onto a glass substrate for the purpose of keeping flatness and shaping or interposing this film between two glass substrates.

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 4-11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A glass transition temperature (Tg) of the cyclic olefin based resin which is used in the invention is preferably from 110 to 350°C, more preferably from 115 to 250°C, and especially preferably from 120 to 200°C. What the Tg is lower than 110°C is not preferable because a change of the optical characteristics of the resulting cyclic ~~polyolefin~~ olefin based resin film becomes large due to heat from a laser beam source or its adjacent parts. On the other hand, when the Tg exceeds 350 °C, in the case of processing by heating in the vicinity of Tg by stretching processing or the like, the possibility that the resin causes thermal degradation becomes high.

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, lines 11-18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

What the photoelastic coefficient (C_P) is large means that in the case where the polymer is used in the glass state, a retardation is likely generated sensitively due to an external factor or a stress generated from a strain ~~as generated from a strain~~ when it is frozen itself, or the like. For example, it is meant that an unnecessary change of retardation is likely generated due to a residual strain at the time of sticking in laminating, or a fine stress generated by shrinkage of the material caused by a temperature change or a humidity change as in the invention. From this matter, it is preferable that the photoelastic coefficient (C_P) is as small as possible.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 14 to page 45, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As an optical information recording and reproducing device using the wavelength plate of the invention, the foregoing wavelength plates A-1, A-2, B and C were independently used and evaluated with respect to writing and reading of the information over a long period of time (under the atmosphere at 80°C and 90% RH) using an optical pickup device 10 using a wavelength plate. That is, in the optical pickup device 10, two kinds of a laser diode (LD) 20 as a laser beam source are arranged in a line and emit laser beams having a wavelength of 650 nm and 785 nm, respectively; a polarizing beam splitter (PBS) 21, a wavelength plate (QWP) 22, and an objective lens 23 are disposed in the way of the outward journey toward an optical recording medium [[23]] 24; and in the homeward journey, return light as reflected from the optical recording medium 24 passes through the objective lens 23 and the wavelength plate 22, is changed in its travel direction by 90 degrees by the PBS 21, and then reaches an optical detector 25. As a result, it was noted that in addition to good initial

characteristics, all of these wavelength plates exhibited a change rate of the initial characteristics falling within 1% even after lapsing 3,000 hours and revealed good stability. In particular, with respect to the wavelength plate A-1, the change rate fell within 0.5 %, and therefore, it was noted that the characteristics were very stable.